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GENERAL NOTES.

The sixty-fourth meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Cleveland, Ohio, from December 30, 1912, to January 4, 1913. Professor E. C. PICKERING, director of the Harvard College Observatory, was the presiding officer, but, under the rules of the association the annual address was delivered by the retiring president, Dr. C. E. BESSEY. Professor PICKERING, in turn, will deliver the address at the next annual meeting.

Professor E. B. FROST[1] was vice-president of Section A, Mathematics and Astronomy, and presented an address on the subject "The Spectroscopic Determination of Stellar Velocities, Considered Practically." The Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, the American Mathematical Society, and the American Physical Society held a joint meeting with Sections A and B. The address of Professor R. A. MILLIKAN, vice-president of Section B, Physics, on "Atomic Theories of Radiation,"[2] will also be of interest to astronomers.

The Council of the association adopted a resolution creating a committee of thirty members to be known as the "Committee on the Pacific Coast Meeting," whose duty it shall be to consider the relations of the association to the exposition and, if desirable, the presentation of scientific programs. Director W. W. CAMPBELL of the Lick Observatory was made chairman of this committee, the membership of which includes many members of the scientific departments of Stanford University and of the University of California. The San Francisco meeting is to be held in the summer of 1915; the meeting in December, 1913, will be held at Atlanta, Georgia, and that of 1914 at Philadelphia.

The International Union for Solar Research will hold its next triennial meeting at Bonn, Germany, beginning August 1, 1913. On Wednesday of the following week (August 6th) the Astronomische Gesellschaft will hold its meeting at Hamburg, Germany.

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[1] Professor FROST is spending the year in Europe. His address was read by Professor J. A. PARKHURST.

[2] The address is printed in *Science*, **37**, 119, 1913.

A new board of editors assumed charge of the well and favorably known English astronomical journal, *The Observatory,* at the beginning of the present year. *The Observatory* was "founded in 1877 by Mr. (now Sir WILLIAM) CHRISTIE, who handed it on to Mr. E. W. MAUNDER a year or two later. In 1884 Mr. MAUNDER was joined by Messrs. A. M. W. DOWNING and T. LEWIS for three years, after which Professor TURNER took it over jointly with Dr. COMMON till 1892 and afterwards with Messrs. T. LEWIS and H. P. HOLLIS till 1893, since when the two latter have been sole editors." The new editors are Messrs. F. J. M. STRATTON, A. S. EDDINGTON, and S. CHAPMAN. It is their intention not to change the general character and arrangement of the magazine.

The Observatory for January, 1913, records the death of Mr. S. A. SAUNDER, for many years senior mathematical master at Wellington College, and long a member of the Royal Astronomical Society. Mr. SAUNDER was known as an authority on selenography, and his principal astronomical work related to the accurate measurement, from photographs, of the positions of points on the Moon's surface. "In 1900 the number of points on the Moon whose places were known with any pretension to accuracy was 162, due mainly to LOHRMANN and MÄDLER. In 1910 the number of points was 3,012, of which 2,885 were due to SAUNDER. The probable error of a measure had been reduced from $7''.02$ to $0''.15$."

It was Mr. SAUNDER'S intention to establish a definitive system of lunar nomenclature, and this scheme was undertaken in co-operation with Professor JULIUS FRANZ, director of the observatory at Breslau. *Science,* in the issue for February 21, 1913, records the death of Dr. FRANZ also, but it is understood that this plan was practically completed, and that as soon as a new map of the Moon, now in process of construction, has been completed the definitive nomenclature recommended by these eminent selenographers will be transferred to it.

The National Academy of Sciences will hold an adjourned meeting on April 22d-24th to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. In addition to the American speakers, three European men of science have been invited to give addresses—Professor J. C. KAPTEYN, Professor ARTHUR SCHUSTER, and Professor THEODOR BOOHI. Professor KAPTEYN'S subject will be "The Structure of the Universe."

A great many lectures have been given within the past few months by prominent astronomers in this country and in Europe in which the results of recent researches on the motions and distribution of the stars have been presented to general audiences. Among these we may note a series of three on "The Movements of the Stars" begun on February 25th at the Royal Institution by Professor H. H. TURNER.

Major E. H. HILLS has been appointed honorary director of the Durham University Observatory.

The *Astronomische Nachrichten* has begun to issue a *Literarisches Beiblatt,* which contains short abstracts of astronomical publications—both books and articles in periodicals. The last number issued is Number 6, which was closed on January 1, 1913.

The Astronomical Society of Mexico has decided to offer a medal and diploma to any astronomer who discovers a comet. The medal will be known as the Carolina Herschel Medal.

Science states (March 7, 1913) that an anonymous donor has offered the University of Cambridge (England) £10,000 towards the endowment of a chair of astrophysics.

The Lalande Prize of the Paris Academy of Science has been awarded to Professors H. KOBOLD and W. WIRTZ for their work on the determination of the motions of nebulæ. The Academy awarded the Valz Prize to M. ALEXANDRE SCHAUMASSE for his work on comets, and the Jannsen Prize to M. A. PEROT for his work in spectroscopy, particularly with reference to solar phenomena.

From the list of members and correspondents of the Academy, printed in the first number of the *Comptes Rendus* for 1913, it appears that only four Americans are now corresponding members. Three of these—G. W. HILL, E. C. PICKERING, and G. E. HALE—are astronomers. The fourth is A. A. MICHELSON, the physicist.

The gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded to M. H. A. DESLANDRES for his investigations of solar phenomena and other spectroscopic work. The Jackson-Gwilt Medal has been awarded to Rev. T. H. E. ESPIN for his observations of the spectra of stars and his discovery of *Nova Lacertæ.—The Observatory.*

Periodic comets due to return to perihelion in the present year include Holmes's Comet, period 6.86 years; Finlay's Comet, period about 6½ years; Kopff's Comet (1906 IV), period 6.67 years. These belong to *Jupiter's* comet family. The first named was so exceedingly faint at its last return, in 1906, that it is very doubtful whether it will be seen again. The chances for the detection of Finlay's Comet are rather better. The orbit of Kopff's Comet must be regarded as somewhat uncertain, as it has been observed at one apparition only. In addition to these, the only periodic comet whose return can be hoped for during the year is Westphal's Second Comet, discovered on June 27, 1852. If the period of about sixty years is correct, this object should now be approaching the Sun. Search ephemerides for this comet are given by M. A. HNATEK in *Astronomische Nachrichten,* **193**, 205, 1912, and for Finlay's Comet by M. G. FAYET in *Astronomische Nachrichten,* **193**, 333, 1913.

M. B. BAILLAUD, director of the Paris Observatory, has been elected president, and M. H. DESLANDRES, director of the Meudon Observatory, vice-president, of the Paris Bureau des Longitudes for 1913.

Sir DAVID GILL has been elected the first honorary member of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America.